WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Civil aviation facilities in hilly areas

†4176. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed in the current Five Year Plan for the extension of civil aviation facilities in the backward hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the number of such air strips which are not being used for the regular flights in such areas, State-wise;

(d) whether his Ministry is going to take some steps to make these air-strips useful for the commercial flights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several projects for upgradation and development of infrastructure facilities for civil aviation in the backward hill area are planned as per the demand from respective State Governments, scheduled operators and the availability of funds. Development works have been planned and taken up in the current Five Year Plan 2002-07 for the areas like Kangra in H.P. for upgradation of airport for operation of 50 seater type of aircraft, at Leh for the construction of a new Civil Apron, at Pakyong in Sikkim and Chiethu (Kohima) in Nagaland for construction of new airports.

(c) Only the airstrip at Pantnagar in Uttaranchal is not being used for regular flights though it is suitable for operation of 20 seater aircraft.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) State Government has been requested to provide additional land for upgradation of runway and associated facilities to make the airstrip at Pantnagar in Uttaranchal suitable for operation of 50 seater type of aircraft.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.